THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, February 23, 1807.

PARTICULARS *of the* PRESENT STATE *of* POLAND.

By Mr. Burnett, a Gentleman recently returned from that Country, after a Residence in it of two Years.

I Landed at Dantzic, formerly an independent town under the protection of Poland; and as it has always been intimately connected with that country by the trade in corn, some account of a place so considerable, yet so little known, may not be unacceptable before I introduce my observations on the interior. This city is become an object of particular interest, too, from events now evolving.

Dantzic is situated on the Vistula, in an immense plain or marsh, about four miles from the Baltic. Its population (as I learnt from a merchant of the place) is, as stated by others, 36,000. It is regularly and strongly fortified. Its circumference, within the fortifications, is about four miles, as I ascertained pretty nearly, by walking entirely round. The eastern and western entrances, which are the principal, are joined by the *lange gasse*, or long street, which passes nearly through the centre of the town. This street is by no means uniformly built, nor of an equal width throughout; it consists rather of two or three different streets, running the one into the other. The streets cross one another at right angles; those parallel with the long street are the widest and best built. Some few of these have also rows of trees on each side. Many of the others are rather lanes than streets: the whole are paved, though they are entirely without flags. As the exterior form of the houses in this town is singular, and seems common in this part of the world, the reader may perhaps not be displeased with a brief description of it. The houses, then, commonly present a narrow front; and appear as if the gable ends were turned to-

wards the street. The opposite sides of the roof, however, do not converge in straight lines, and terminate in a point; but deviate into various ornamental curvatures, and finally terminate in rounded summits, similarly to what may be observed over the windows of some old halls in England.

On the west, immediately without the moat, arise heights which completely command the town. One of these little hills is as conveniently situated for an enemy, as if artificially thrown up for his purpose. I attempted to ascend it, in order to look about me; but a sentiment soon obliged me to retreat. On the second partition of Poland, in 1793, when the king of Prussia usurped the sovereignty of Dantzic, his first object was to obtain possession of this height, whence he overawed the town.

The trade of Dantzic has been said to be, for some years, on the decline; yet a new custom-house has been lately erected, far more capacious than the former one: besides, the harbour at Fairwater has been enlarged and rendered more commodious. I am unable to adduce the comparative state of the customs, of exports and imports, in any given number of former and late years.

The prevalent religion at Dantzic, as throughout Prussia, is the Lutheran; though there are several catholic churches, one of which is of considerable magnitude, and adorned, as usual, with a variety of superb monuments and fine paintings. The largest Lutheran church is still more capacious, but totally without ornament. The difference in this respect was to me very striking, having gone immediately from the one to the other; and I very sensibly felt on this occasion, that I was not so rigid a protestant as to be prevented from feeling a higher gratification on entering a temple of religion, resplendent with the tasteful productions of the fine arts, than on beholding only the bare and mouldy walls of another, though sanctified by the authority of the renowned and meritorious Martin Luther. But religion does not appear to be much in fashion at Dantzic. Both in the Lutheran and in the catholic churches, I observed that the congregation consisted chiefly of peasants, and of the lowest classes of the people. The merchants are, in general, professed unbelievers; and in no town, that I have seen, does infidelity appear so widely diffused among uneducated and illiterate people. I was told by a merchant, who seemed very solicitous that I should consider him of the class of gentlemen, that it was ungenteel to go to church, and that few but the vulgar, particularly the peasants, would be found zealous frequenters of the temple.

The places of public amusement are more frequented. Within a very few years a new theatre has been built here; which, agreeably to the custom of the continent, is always

open

open on Sundays. The scenery is tolerable, though the general appearance is heavy and inelegant. The pit has no seats, except a few near the music-box: the greater part of it serves as a sort of parade for loungers.

The other Sunday amusements, during the summer, are rope-dancing, tumbling, &c. to which may be added, the visiting of public gardens, where you are regaled with coffee, punch, &c. and the gayness of the scene is heightened by a band of music. But the most celebrated tea-garden is situated in a village, about three miles to the west of the town. The road to this village runs, for two miles out of the three, in a straight line between a double row of lofty trees; and between the rows on each side is a walk ten or twelve feet wide, completely overshadowed by the arching of the opposite branches. In this village, and its vicinity, many of the merchants of Dantzic have country residences. I have mentioned this place chiefly, because it affords many picturesque and beautiful scenes; and because, from the adjoining heights, there is the most extensive prospect of the whole surrounding country.

On the north, we have a view of the Baltic; of the bay of Dantzic, its bottom adorned with forests of pine; of the harbour and shipping at Fair-water, with the vessels passing to and fro between that and the town. To the east, is the city of Dantzic, with its walls and towers; from which, on the south and east, stretches a fertile plain, in appearance of immeasureable extent. On the west, the prospect is completed by the adjacent woodlands.

The vast marsh which stretches out from Dantzic, for an extent of forty miles, is of singular fertility. It is cultivated partly in corn, and party in pasturage. The farm-houses are good, and the barns uncommonly capacious. Hence this town is abundantly supplied with excellent shambles of meat, as well as corn; and, as it is somewhat cheaper here than in England, the masters of our trading vessels often choose to take in their sea-stores at this place, rather than in their own country. Through this plain winds the Vistula, discharging itself into the Baltic at the bottom of Fairwater, about four English miles below Dantzic. This river is so swelled in the spring by the melting of the winter's snow, that its stream has been confined by two prodigious banks, which seem to commence at the south-eastern extremity of the marsh, extending downwards through a distance of at least twenty or thirty miles, and gradually disappearing as the river approaches the sea. These banks are nearly a mile asunder, though the river itself is rarely a quarter of a mile wide. They are, at the least, twenty feet in perpendicular height; are broad enough at the top for two carriages to pass with difficulty, and at the base are proportionally extended. The river is passed here, and in various other places,

by a boat capable of containing two coaches and four in succession, and two abreast, with a number of persons besides. The ends of the boat are adapted to a small pier at the side, to which, when the boat is lashed, carriages, &c. are easily driven into it. During the winter, most of the streams throughout Poland are crossed on the ice, which is commonly covered with snow. In some places, indeed, which are comparatively few, there are bridges of boats, and on piles, of course all of wood.

Soon after crossing the Vistula, at the eastern extremity of the plain of Dantzic, the country assumes that appearance which, with slight variations, it universally retains through Poland. Having described, therefore, the appearances of an extent of thirty or forty miles, I may be considered as having described the whole region.

The surface is slightly uneven, but not sufficiently to interrupt the view towards the farthest possible horizon. Hence, though Poland is a flat country, it is not a perfect plain, as has been sometimes represented. Its surface undulates, but never rises into hills, except in a few places. The Carpathian mountains, which separate it from Hungary, do not form a proper exception to this general appearance. The town of Lemberg, however, is situated in a hilly district; though the hills are too stoney, too little wooded, and covered with grass, to exhibit a single specimen of the picturesque. There are a few pretty scenes; and I was informed that the vicinity of Cracow presents others still more worthy of attention: but it may be remarked, that neither of these towns is many miles distant from the above mountains.

The traveller sometimes finds himself in an expanse of surface, almost without a house, a tree, or any single object large enough to attract his notice. Soon, however, are descried the skirts of some vast forest fringing the distant horizon; and on entering it, we proceed for eight or ten miles (more or less) winding with the road through lofty pines, &c. &c. precluded from the sight of all objects but trees and shrubs. Sometimes in the midst of a forest we meet with a small spot of ground (for example, of ten or twenty acres) cleared and cultivated; its sides prettily fenced by the green surrounding woods. Sometimes a small lake is found thus situated, its borders ornamented in a similar manner: and these, generally speaking, are the prettiest scenes which Poland furnishes. These forests in some places are fifteen, and even twenty miles, in all directions; an assertion which will appear the more credible, when I observe that of an estate belonging to a certain nobleman, containing about fifty square miles, nearly one half is computed to be forest. It is not easy to traverse these vast wildernesses, without being

being filled with a sentiment of awful admiration! Their frequent and deep shade, conspires with their never-ending extent, to suggest an idea of infinity which approaches the sublime; and sublime indeed would be the prospect, if only a solitary mount peered above the tops of the trees, that the eye might be permitted to rove unimpeded over a hemisphere of green and delightful foliage.

During the summer-heat, the forests afford a very grateful shelter to the traveller. In winter, the scene is totally changed: Every bough and branch is heavily laden with congealed snow, and the ever-greens are completely hid beneath this white and universal covering. The pines lift their lofty heads in the cold, clear air, huge and still as giants enchanted into pillars of salt. There are some lakes far more extensive than those just mentioned. The Vistula itself, from the great increase of its waters in the spring, is expanded, in certain places, into a sort of lake. There are also occasional bogs, and impassable morasses.

At very distant intervals are found plains of some extent, affording rich pasturage. The richest I have had an opportunity of seeing, are those contiguous to the Vistula, and which are periodically overflowed by that river. Such are those in the neighbourhood of Warsaw, and which supply that town with good butcher's meat. These pasture-lands, in general so thinly scattered, are said to be more frequent in Lithuania.

On the skirts of a forest (more rarely in the midst) are commonly found the villages; though they sometimes appear wholly unsheltered in a wide extended plain, as above described. A Polish village consists of a collection of miserable huts, from eight or ten to forty or fifty, all of wood, and rudely covered with straw and turf. A collection of the very worst species of huts, found in some parts of Scotland, would be a favourable specimen. These hovels afford so indifferent a protection against the rigours of the winter, that their wretched inhabitants absolutely stop up the vents of the chimnies, preferring to be half smothered with smoke, to exposing themselves to the piercing cold. The villages are thinly scattered: I should not choose to hazard an assertion of the average distance. They are situated most frequently within about four or five miles of each other, and are often less distant; but I have sometimes travelled for ten, and even more miles, without seeing a single house of any description, excluding the intervention of forests, in which they seldom appear.

The first remove from the extreme wretchedness of the villages, are the little towns. These are also of wood; but the houses are larger, and better constructed; they are also differently arranged. The general plan of a Polish town is very simple. There is commonly a pretty large square, with the

town-

town-house in the centre. This place, however, is sometimes occupied by the most considerable inn. On the sides is often a sort of piazza (if, contrary to Virgil's shepherd, we must describe small things by great), particularly in the wooden towns, under which bread, cakes, trinkets, &c. are exposed on small standings to sale. At each angle is usually an entrance, lined on each side, for a short distance, with houses. The wooden houses, whether in town or country, have rarely, if ever, any thing but the roof above the ground floor. It must be a pretty good town which contains 2000 inhabitants. There are many dignified with this appellation, where the people cannot exceed 2 or 300.

This general plan is extended to a large proportion of the better sort of towns, to those which are built of brick. These are usually situated in a plain, at some distance from a forest, and in the vicinity (or even in the midst) of some morass; partly from the convenience of procuring brick with facility, and partly, as it may be supposed, to render them more difficult of access to an enemy. From the scarcity of stone-quarries in Poland, it is rarely we meet with houses built of stone. At Warsaw there are many; at Lemberg there are others: but there are quarries in the neighbourhood. The brick-walls are always stuccoed, or rather rough-cast, as masons term it: there is not an instance in which bricks appear, except from dilapidation; it is considered as vulgar; but as this idea cannot prevail universally, the custom probably originated in its more effectually guarding them from the cold. Most of the towns which are not of wood, are fortified, or rather have been; but many of the fortifications seem calculated rather to amuse than resist an enemy.

Warsaw, situated on the right bank of the Vistula, is an irregularly built town. On entering it by the wooden bridge, from the opposite suburb of Praga, you rise a little; otherwise the town itself, as well as the surrounding country, is flat. It is remarkable, that it has no square; neither does it contain any regular street. Some of the best are adorned with stately palaces, which in two or three instances approach to magnificence. These, for the most part, are now deserted by their former inhabitants; they have been suffered to grow out of repair; some of the fronts exhibit a half-ruinous appearance, and high grass flourishes in the court-yards. Several of them have been sold by their princely and noble possessors. The nobles, chagrined and disgusted at their political annihilation, have generally abandoned their ancient metropolis, which, for its elegant voluptuousness, was stiled (in the times of its prosperity) the little Paris. Instead of passing the winter at Warsaw, therefore, they now spend it either in retirement on their estates,

estates, at the courts of their respective governments, or in foreign countries.

Immediately contiguous to these princely palaces, are commonly seen houses which are quite ordinary, often shabby; forcing upon the mind the unwelcome contrast of riches and poverty, grandeur and meanness.

The population of Warsaw, since the partition, has been on the decline; one cause of which undoubtedly is, its desertion by so many of the nobles. It is now rated at no more than 50,000; whereas, it has been, as they assert, nearly double that number. How different, at first sight, is this city, from the active, bustling town of Dantzic. Here all is flat and joyless, as the face of the country, of which it is the faded capital. I shall have occasion to speak of it again, when I come to treat of the present state of society in Poland.

The suburb of Praga consists of little more than a considerable collection of village huts. Some of the houses, it is true, have a decent appearance; but a large majority are of the description mentioned. The suburbs, indeed, of every subordinate town are mere collections of such hovels.

The city and university of Cracow I did not visit; but it is spoken of by the Poles as in general better built than Warsaw, and as far superior to it in point of situation, which is among hills, and woodland scenery. It is famous, as is well known, for its wonderful salt-mines. It should seem, however, that there is a slight touch of the magic pencil in the romantically gorgeous description of Mr. Coxe.

Lemberg, in Gallitia, is probably the most considerable town after Cracow. Its population is said to be above 30,000, though this seems questionable from the comparative extent of the town. It is, however, evidently on the increase. According to custom, it has a large square, which is at once the best residence and the market place.

Lublin again is another town of some note, of which the population is probably about 5 or 6000. Like Warsaw, it has no square, forming another exception to the general plan; it consists merely of a long thoroughfare street, with a few others irregularly disposed. The buildings are but indifferent, compared to those in towns of similar extent in more civilized countries.

RESTITUTION.

ABOUT twenty-two years since, Mrs. Hopkinson, of the town of Derby, was riding out in an open chaise with another lady and a gentleman; the chaise being small, Mrs. Hopkinson, to give her companions room, sat on the arm of

the chaise; as they drove over a rough part of the road, she felt as if some part of her clothes was tearing, and on her return home, found she had lost her pocket, in which were bank-notes and cash to the amount of thirty pounds. Advertisements were issued, and rewards offered for the pocket and its contents, but in vain. About a month since, a person delivered to Mrs. Hopkinson a small parcel, extremely dirty, and while she was opening it, disappeared. The parcel contained thirty pounds, and the following lines:—"MADAM—When I took the inclosed, I was very young; since that I have had a large family, and have never been able to save so much money until now."

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

BY inserting the following account of a musical prodigy, as related by her father, in your valuable weekly publication, you will greatly oblige

Your obedient servant,

JOHN POOLE.

Taunton, February 9, 1807.

MISS RANDLES, *the* MUSICAL PRODIGY.

MISS RANDLES, who astonishes the world with her wonderful performance on the piano-forte, was born at Wrexham, in Denbighshire, North Wales, in August, 1799. Her father (an organist, and the celebrated lyrist, mentioned by Miss Seward, in her beautiful poem, called Llangollen-vale) was deprived of his sight, by the small-pox, at the age of three years. When Miss Randles was but sixteen months old, she discovered her wonderful talents, by going to the piano-forte, and instinctively playing "God save the king," and the blue bells of Scotland; her father was astonished, and endeavoured by signs (for she could not yet speak) to make her repeat the tunes, which she did. He then sung another simple air, "Charley o'er the water," which her ear caught, and she played it instantly. Mr. Randles then put her left hand upon the corresponding bass note, and, as well as he could make her understand him, told her that she should strike that note, while she played the melody with her right hand; she found this grateful to her ear, and in a short time played a great many little tunes; and at the age of two years could tell the name of any note on the instrument, when it was struck, though she was in another room.

Her father, of course, was very proud of his little Cecilian, composed several variations to favourite airs, which she no sooner heard than played, with both hands, correctly. She continued to improve daily; and in June, 1803, had the honour of performing under the patronage of his royal highness the prince of Wales, before their majesties, and all the royal family. His majesty made her a present of a hundred guineas. She performed at Cumberland-gardens, and there were about 500 of the first people of rank and distinction in the kingdom present, who were no less astonished than delighted at her truly great execution and expression. In 1805, she was taught her notes, and in a very short time could play several of Pleyel, Dressek, and Clementi's sonatas, in a surprising manner.

Towards the latter end of 1805, she and her father took a tour through the north of England, and received the greatest encouragement and applause. Fearing that her health might suffer from too much fatigue, Mr. Randles returned home; and in September last set off towards Buxton, &c. Since that time this fascinating infant has performed at most of the principal places in the kingdom; and has past, with additional honour and fame, the criticism of Bath, where she has been performing with universal applause, accompanied by her father on the harp, and her uncle, Mr. Parry, who plays duets and trios, on flagiolets, which altogether form a truly novel and interesting little band. They are now on their way to the west of England, where they intend giving concerts.

Miss Randles now plays the most scientific compositions at sight, and sings delightfully. The only motive her father has in taking her about is to procure the means to give her the best education. She is to appear once more in the metropolis, under illustrious patronage. Her age is now seven years and six months.

Taunton, February 9, 1807.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 127.*)*

WITH the little Maria, old Truman received a long letter from his son, containing strict injunctions not to spare any expence in point of education; which education should be attained from the best private tuition, and not entrusted to the care of a boarding-school. The child remained for a short

time with the honest couple, who had appropriated the drawing-room, (for the good folks had, by this time, a drawing-room, as their neighbours termed it, though old Truman never dignified it with any more fashionable appellation than his up-stair-room, saying drawing-rooms were for gentry,) for the convenience of their little darling, 'till friends could be consulted, and a proper establishment pointed out.

Wealth and respect had made no innovation on the sensible minds of Bob Truman and his wife, unless to encrease their social intercourse. On such occasions, he would, at times, relax a little. Saying providence had given the means, and a *niggard* was undeserving of its blessings, and if money opened the sluices of interest, why should it not animate and set a-going the springs of the heart: so a man did not infringe on a prudent reserve.

Thus would he sometimes enjoy himself, with a party of select friends, in a good family dinner, where plenty spread the board, and hospitality graced it; but all fulsome ceremony, absurd parade, and ridiculous vanity, were exploded. No awkward shop-boy spruced up to sport off with at a sideboard; of no other use, he said, but to put the company in mind a tradesman did not keep a footman. No, he had every thing placed conveniently near him, and undertook the post of waiter himself; saying, "if he was not above serving his customers, he could, surely, help his friends."

But I cannot omit one gratification, in which Robert was a little prone to indulge. He rose early, worked hard, had a keen appetite, and liked a bit of something comfortable and hot, in a cold winter night for supper, which his wife, knowing his palate, always procured to his satisfaction, and prepared with her *own hand*; after which he took his pipe; Mary now and then pledging his aromatic whiffs of Oroonoko, in a pinch of rappee; drinking, in a glass of their best homebrewed, to the health, prosperity, and a happy meeting with their dear Thomas, not forgetting their little grand-daughter, and after dinner, on a Sunday, these toasts were quaffed in a glass of good old port; but never, when alone, at any other time, wine was admitted, as a luxury too expensive for the common use of a grocer; not but his cellar was plentifully stored, but the juice of the grape was held in reserve, for the necessities of the *indigent sick*, where it was given with a liberal hand, and benevolent heart, with every other comfort, heaven-born charity, and his means, could bestow; but, as such acts were never made the theme of his conversation, he supposed them, as intended, *unknown*.

But to return to our little heroine. Whatever line of education might have been deemed necessary for a child of their own, the good sense of the happy couple pointed out, that the rich

rich heiress of an opulent merchant, where wealth daily poured in showers of abundance from her richest stores, was not to be treated lightly; besides, their son had directed them to spare no expence whatever, and to be advised by his preceptor, the friendly boarder, mentioned in a former part, and to whom also he had written; but this gentleman was now no more, and themselves too ignorant to be competent judges of the proper plan of education for a young lady likely to inherit an immense fortune; and therefore, wisely, turned their thoughts towards the rector of the parish, by whom both Robert and his wife were greatly esteemed. This gentleman was an honour to the gown; performed strictly his duties, familiarized himself in the families of his parishioners, of all ranks and degrees, by which his bosom became the seat of confidence; he was the general friend and adviser, and loved and respected as the father of the flock. The good clergyman listened with attention, promised to give it a thought, and would call again in a few days. The worthy gentleman was punctual.

"I have been considering, my good friend, and think I have hit on a plan you will approve: I know the widow of a poor curate, a most amiable woman, left in extreme indigence"—

At this preface, the heart of old Truman caught an infection, which involuntarily burst through the channels of humanity, giving a prototype of his feelings in a glistening eye; while an extended mouth seemed to gape for a morsel, on which every noble fibre of the heart could feast on to voluptuousness, begging him hastily to proceed, though, in fact, his manner had interrupted him.

"Well then," resumed the pleased rector, "as the formation of the infant's mind is the first and grand object of consideration, and as money need not be spared, I am of opinion, that it cannot be better laid out than in a deed of real charity, which may be exemplified in a delicate attention to the situation of this amiable widow——"

Here another tear lustered the eye of Truman, and his whole countenance beamed with a triumphant smile.

"I have been thinking, my good friend, that as John Wilkins's cottage is become vacant, which is a fine, healthful, as well as retired situation, it might be taken, and furbished a little neatly up, for the accommodation of the little cherub, your grand-daughter. The disconsolate widow shall be placed there as sole mistres of the rural mansion; with a fixed stipend for annual household expences, which I will pledge myself, Mrs. Love, will manage with economy; and that the child will be properly instructed in all religious and moral duties. It shall be my care also, to engage a young woman, whose character, on investigation, shall be approved of, to instruct the young

lady, in fine works, and such female accomplishments appertaining to her sex; and who, as she advances in years, will insure her a sensible, agreeable companion, and friend. In matters of still greater consequence, the formation of the mind, I shall be most particularly attentive to; the soil is, by nature, rich, and requires the cultivating hand of real genius and ability to mature it to perfection; the first masters then shall be engaged, to instruct her in literature and the sciences, and to give her a finished education."

"But, my dear Sir ——"

"Hear me out, my honest friend," stopping the current of the grocer's speech, "all this must be done on a plan of fixed economy. At her years, and indeed for many years, parade would be an unnecessary, and a very improper concomitant in the forming a youthful mind; I will not have thundered in her ears, the immense fortune she is one day to possess. A young mind is too easily warped, and reason may be led astray through life, where the infant heart is once tainted with *pride*. This will be Mrs. Loves's care to guard against, and correct, and I know I can depend on her. In point of servants, we need only engage a good plain cook, to undertake the business of the kitchen, and milk a cow. Her mulatto nurse, and black servants it is our duty to foster, but not to indulge in idleness; the females can keep the house as clean and neat as a little palace, and honest Cudjoe, to waiting at table, and other services, may assist a man, hired occasionally, in the cultivation of the garden, as well as attending the ladies in their pedestrian excursions, for I positively forbid the use of a carriage."

Old Truman could find no quicker mode of venting his transports than by dancing; so, after cutting a few capers to his favourite tune of Darby and Joan, which he gave in a loud whistle, vowed he would settle every thing respecting the cottage that very day, cost what it would; and that the widow, Mrs. Love, should immediately pack up herself, and her alls, and remove to his house, 'till every thing was ready for her accommodation.

"Suppress your raptures, my friend; matters must be conducted with propriety. A noble mind, and benevolent heart, like your's, rapt to enthusiasm, will, by the strictly honest, be met half way, acknowledging a reciprocal return; but the craft of narrow-minded cunning must be guarded against. Wilkins is a man of the world, as it is termed (a character "more honoured in the breach than the observance;") your feelings are too much alive on this occasion, to encounter the springs of self-interest, too intimately connected with his sordid soul, and your generosity will be made the dupe of low cunning. Leave the business to me; I will act impartially and justly on both sides;

sides; and not another word on the subject, 'till I give notice all is ready for the reception of our mutual care."

The grocer made his best bow, which bow, like Corporal Trim's, spoke as plain as a bow could speak—" Your reverence is all goodness;"—the chords of gratitude vibrating in his bosom, joining, in unison, the fine tones of the heart, and swelling into rapturous joy!

(To be continued.)

Genuine Copy of an affecting Letter on the Death of Queen Caroline, Consort of George II.

Written by a Lady of the Bedchamber.

NOVEMBER 29, 1739.

I Will not make any apology, dear Madam, for not having wrote sooner; and I do assure you, this is the first time I have taken a pen in my hand since the queen's illness, which lasted twelve days, and nine are now past since we lost the best queen, friend, and mistress, that ever servant had. All my faculties feel still benumbed, as if I had been seized with a palsy. You that know what it is to feel, can judge what one suffers, with *le cœur serre et la tete tout embrouille,** and how little one is capable of uttering even their sorrow. From the first seizure I foresaw our loss, and hardly ever felt a gleam of hope; and yet when the stroke came, it found me unprepared, but not her who underwent it. She never from her first illness had any hopes of recovery, nor shewed the least fear of the pain she endured, or of the last closing scene; her only concern was for the king's affliction, which is certainly as sincere and intense as ever human nature sustained.

The archbishop, who constantly attended her, told me he never saw a behaviour equally glorious and Christian to her's, and that all she said to him deserved to be printed. The first time he expressed his sorrow to see her so ill, and her pain so great, she told him though her body suffered, she had a good conscience, which spoke inexpressible comforts to her, and supported her in the midst of all her torments. About two hours before she died, she called for the duke who was in the room with the king and the princesses (though he had at that time a severe fever, which he contracted by having sat up several nights together)—when he came, she told him she sent for him to give him her last blessing, and upon that to charge him to be always dutiful to his father, and not to listen to any one who might

* The heart locked up and the head perplexed.

might be wicked enough to insinuate to him, that they could have separate interests; for even if that were possible he would find more comfort in the reflection of having adhered to his duty, than in the possession of all the empires of the world, and added, that whether he lived long, or not, he would have no thought worth his care on a dying bed, but how he had lived; and if he could then feel that he had acted the part of a man of honour, justice, and of a Christian, it would give him a joy that she could feel, but not describe. She then ordered him to go to bed, which he submitted to with great reluctance.

After she had lain quiet awhile, they asked her to take a little viper-broth; but she desired something to give her a little spirits; they brought her some palsy drops in Madeira wine, the swallowing of which put her into a coughing, and a difficulty of drawing her breath for some time. She then took her leave of the princesses, one by one, and gave some particular directions to each of them. Last of all she took leave of the king, and thanked him for all his goodness to her in the most moving terms imaginable, and among other things said, "My poor servants—they are under excessive affliction; give me leave, Sir, to recommend them to your protection."

When she had done speaking, she bid one of the bed-chamber women take away the candles that stood by the bed—the king asked her if they hurt her eyes; she said "No, Sir, but I would spare you the affliction of seeing me die." She then lay quiet again about a quarter of an hour, at the end of which she called to those in the room (for the archbishop was gone) to read the commendatory prayer, and desiring it may be read aloud, that she might hear it, and that all would pray for her. She expired before it was finished. The king stayed in the room half an hour after, and I believe has not known a thought since but what tended in the strongest manner to shew his tenderness and regard to her memory.

His first action was to confirm to all her servants, from the highest to the lowest, their respective salaries for their lives; the next was to look into the accounts of her charitable pensions, which amounted to thirteen thousand pounds per annum, which he likewise confirmed; and not satisfied with that, he ordered we should all let him know the names of those who received casual relief through our hands, that he may from time to time assist them. This is the behaviour of the man, who has been represented as false to her, fickle in his friendship, and avaricious. He has had her body embalmed, as near as they could get any light, after the manner of the Egyptians, at the expence of between five and six hundred pounds. Her funeral is to be after the manner of Queen Anne's; and her whole

whole family attend their days about her, as if she was still alive.

I ought to beg your pardon for this unmerciful long letter; but there are subjects, which one knows not how to leave, when one has once begun with them. I must, therefore, break off, before I take up another which might still extend my letter to an unconscionable degree, which is the esteem and regard I have for you; but you may judge of it, by my pouring out to you what is at present the uppermost thoughts of my heart, with a freedom one can only use to those we love. Adieu.

ANECDOTES *of* COLONEL SILAS TITUS.

THIS writer, who made the usurper Cromwell tremble, was born at Bushy, in Hertfordshire. In 1637 he became a commoner of Christ Church, Oxford, where he continued about three years, and then removed to one of the inns of court; but the great rebellion breaking out, he entered at first into the parliamentary service and became a captain. When the king's cause, however, declined, and he saw which way the independents were going, Titus adhered to his sovereign, and was with the commissioners appointed by parliament to his majesty at Newcastle, and afterwards at Holdenby. The king being seized at that place, and carried off by Cornet Joyce, the commissioners sent him with an express to the parliament, in June, 1647, to acquaint them of the affair, for which service the parliament gave him fifty pounds to buy a horse.

After the death of Charles I. he became groom of the bedchamber to his successor, whom he followed into Scotland, and served under him as colonel at the battle of Worcester. Titus had the good luck to escape after that action; and lived retired. In 1657 he printed by stealth at London, a small tract in quarto, under the name of William Allen, entitled "Killing no Murder;" in which he proved that it was not only lawful, but highly honourable to slay the usurper. Nay, he went so far as to advise Cromwell to kill himself, "very fairly giving him his choice of hanging, drowning, or pistolling," which frightened Oliver exceedingly, and great pains were taken to find out the real author, but without effect. This small piece at its first coming out, was sold for five shillings, though the ordinary price of such tracts was but six-pence.

At the restoration, Colonel Titus was elected into parliament for Lostwithiel, in Cornwall. He opposed the prerogative in 1678, on the occasion of Oates's plot, for which he lost his place at court. The year following he was chosen knight of

the shire for the county of Huntingdon, and in that parliament he zealously spoke against the duke of York.

Notwithstanding this he was introduced to that prince when he was James II. and kissed his hand. He is said also to have undertaken a work, recommending the "repeal of the test and penal laws, as the greatest happiness that could befal the nation, and a bulwark against popery." For this he was sworn in a member of James's privy council, and upon the abdication of that monarch, Titus also thought proper to absent himself. But soon after the revolution, he again appeared on the political stage as member of parliament for Ludlow. His election was opposed, but confirmed by a committee of the house of commons in 1690. Colonel Titus died at the close of the seventeenth century. Besides his tract abovementioned, which is written in a remarkably vigorous style, several speeches of his are in print; and he assisted Dr. Perimchief in his history of Charles I. particularly with respect to the two last years of that monarch's eventful life.

REGULATIONS *respecting* SLAVES *in* HAVANNAH.

THE following regulations are adopted by the Spaniards at the Havannah, and some other places, for the gradual enfranchisement of slaves:—As soon as a slave is landed, his name, price, &c. are registered in a public register: and the master is obliged by law to allow him one working day in the week to himself, besides Sunday; so that if the slave chose to work for his master on that day, he receives the wages of a freeman for it, and whatever he gains by his labour on that day, is so secured to him by law, that the master cannot deprive him of it. This is certainly a considerable step towards abolishing the state of absolute slavery. As soon as the slave is able to purchase another working day, the master is obliged to sell it to him at a proportionable price, viz, one fifth part of his original cost, and so likewise the remaining four days at the same rate, when the slave is able to redeem them, after which he is absolutely free. This is such an incitement to industry, that even the most indolent are roused to activity.

AN ANECDOTE.

A Certain noted physician at Bath was lately complaining, in a coffee-house in that city, that he had three fine daughters, to whom he should give ten thousand pounds each, and yet that he could find no body to marry them. "With your *love*, doctor," said an Irishman who was present, stepping up, and making a very respectful bow, "I'll take *two* of them!"

FAVOURITE SINGER.

THE celebrated female singer, Catalini, who was for some weeks absent from the opera-house, on alledged indisposition, performed again some nights since, and displayed such powers as at once astonished and delighted the audience. They could discover no traces of her *indisposition*, and yet, besides the loss incurred by her absence, this indisposition is said to have cost the managers 500 guineas. The fact is understood to be, that the terms of her engagement were somewhat equivocal: she was to have as large a salary as was ever given to any singer, viz. 2500 guineas for the season; but after she had performed some nights, she learned that in one season Billington received 3000 guineas. This discovery so violently affected her nerves, that she found it impossible again to face the audience at the opera, 'till the disputed 500 golden pills of life were secured to her.

SPECIMEN *of* ORTHOGRAPHY.

TO be sold by Ocshon one the 17 of May all the houshold goods and firnitere of —— —— Diseased at his Dweling House Consisting of all the beds with Chairs and Tables and looking Glases and a swing one and beddin and bedstids a Ait de Clock and other Kitchen yutensls a grate and braspans &c—

Dated May 20 1803

Answer, by a Miner, now at Polgooth Mine, to the Question inserted November 24.

PUT a = 51,040, the number of yards in 29 miles, x = the length of the lesser oblong, and z = that of the greater; then per question, we get these equations, $2x+2y=a$, $16y+2z=a$, and $8z=6x$; from the last of these we get $z=\frac{6x}{8}$; write this value in the other two, and reduce the equations resulting, we get at last this simple equation, $232x=112a$, $\therefore x=\frac{112a}{232}=24{,}640$ yards, the length of the lesser oblong; hence its breadth is 880 yards, and the length and breadth of the greater oblong are 18,480 and 7040 yards respectively; and lastly, one contains 73,920 miles; the other 12,320 miles.—Q. E. D.

Answer, by L. Livercock, of Littleham, to Sophia's Charade, inserted December 1.

DEAR Sophy's charade, dress'd up in disguise,
Shews a PILCHARD, which Cornishmen oft put in pies.

‡§‡ We have received the like answer from John Woodman, of North Curry; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. S. and Henry Stoneman, of Exeter; Ann Dyer, of Manadon House; J. Ryan, and B. Belcher, of East Stonehouse; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; R. Gidley, and P. Codd, of Dean Prior. John Badcock, of Mousehole; G. A. T. Arden, of South Petherton; J. Tucker, H. Ellis, and John Kendrick, of Tiverton; John Lewis, of Poole; W. D. of Bristol; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; Corporal Ninnis, of the St. Agnes volunteers; Tyro, of Penzance; J. Rowden, of Heyteshury; J. Fairweather, of Batson; Elkanah, and J. Russel, of Modbury; H. K. of Charmouth; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; H. Glasson, of Praze; and E. G. of Totnes.

Answer, by Cleora, to J. T. Symons's Rebus, inserted December 8.

THE initials of your rebus join'd,
A TIPPET you will quickly find.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Salter, of Broadhembury; W. D. of Bristol; H. Glasson, of Praze; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; B Belcher, and J. Ryan, of Stonehouse; P. Codd, and R. Gidley, of Dean Prior; H. Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; J. Badcock, of Mousehole; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; John Woodman, of North Curry; Tyro, of Penzance; G. A. T. Arden, of South Petherton; J. Joyce, and J. Kendrick, of Tiverton; and J. Rowden, of Heytesbury.

An ANAGRAM, *by Tyro, of Penzance.*

A Measure of capacity;
A jewel next pray find:
The both reverse, and join, you'll see,
A spice of foreign kind.

A CHARADE, *by W. D. of Bristol.*

A River, gents, imprimis, show,
That doth in England swiftly flow;
Go search God's sacred house around,
'Tis there, kind Sirs, my second's found;
My wretched whole, for a base crime,
Was banish'd to a distant clime;
Where he in misery must remain
'Till death shall ease him of his pain.

A REBUS, *by J. Woodman, of North Curry.*

A British chief, whose bravery on the main,
A signal victory o'er the French did gain;
A name that's given to the rising day,
When feather'd warblers sit on leafy spray;
A noble attribute of the most high;
Lastly a town in Somerset doth lie;
The initials found, and join'd aright,
My plumy whole appears in sight.

POETRY.

Lines addressed to a Married Lady; or the Dirge of the Departed Year.

MALAY's woods and mountains ring
With voices strange and sad to hear,
And dark unbodied spirits sing
The dirge of the departed year!

Lo! now methinks, in tones sublime,
As viewless o'er our heads they bend,
They whisper, "Thus we steal your time,
"Weak mortals, 'till your days shall end."

Then wake the dance, and wake the song,
Resound the festive mirth and glee—
Alas! the days have past along,
The days we never more shall see.

But let me brush the nightly dews
Beside the shell-depainted shore,
And 'mid the sea-weed sit to muse
On days that shall return no more.

Olivia! Ah! forgive the bard
If sprightly strains alone are drear;
His notes are sad, for he had heard
The footsteps of the parting year!

'Mid friends of youth, belov'd in vain,
Oft have I hail'd this jocund day—
If pleasure brought a thought of pain,
I charm'd it with a passing lay.

Friends of my youth! for ever dear,
Where are you from this bosom fled?
A lonely man, I linger here,
Like one that has been long time dead?

Foredoom'd to seek an early tomb,
For whom the pallid grave flowers blow;
I hasten on my destin'd doom,
And sternly mock at joy or woe.

Yet while the circling year returns,
'Till years to me return no more;
Still in my breast affection burns
With purer ardour than before.

Departed year! thine earliest beam,
When first thou grac'st thy splendid round,
Beheld me by the Cavary's stream,
A man unblest, on holy ground.

With many a ling'ring step and slow,
I left Mysura's hills afar;
Thro' Curga's rocks I past below,
To trace the lakes of Malabar.

Sweet Malabar! thy suns that shine
With soften'd light, thro' summer show'rs,

Might

Might charm a sadder soul than mine
To joy, amidst thy lotus flow'rs.

For each sweet scene I wander'd o'er,
Fair scenes, that ever shall be dear—
From Curga's hills to Travancore
I hail thy steps, departed year!

But chief, that in this eastern isle,
Girt by the green and glist'ning wave,
Olivia's kind, bewitching smile,
Seem'd to recall me from the grave.

When far beyond Malaya's sea,
I trace dark Soonda's forests drear,
Olivia, I shall think of thee—
And bless thy steps, departed year!

Each morn, or evening, spent with thee,
Fancy, shall, 'mid the wilds restore,
In all their charms, and they shall be
Sweet days, that shall return no more.

Still may'st thou live in bliss secure,
Beneath that friend's protecting care;
And may his cherish'd life endure,
Long, long, thy holy love to share!

Prince of Wales's Island, January 1, 1806. J. C. L.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The LOVER's PETITION.

IS this, is this, thy wish, my dove,
To quit so soon this scene below?
To thwart my unaffected love,
And overwhelm my breast with woe?

If such thy will, O fate severe!
That her surviving years be few;
O take her to her kindred sphere—
To Heav'n—but take her lover too!

Trent. B. A.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The DYING BEAUTY.

SAY, Laura, why that pallid cheek?
Say, why doth drop the briny tear?
Say why this grief, sweet damsel speak?
Say, and relieve me from despair.
Say why the cause, from whence it flows?
Indulge a sympathizing friend;
'Tis balm to solace others' woes;
'Tis sweet to prove one's self a friend.
Alas! my invocation's vain;
The crimson flush of nature flies;
For William's false! Ah! perjur'd swain!
She sighs, she faints, alas! she dies.

Kingsbridge. ROB. PERRING.